

**The Waste Report's "Worldwide Waste" Series**  
*Examining waste in U.S. foreign assistance programs*

**Part 6: Foreign Tourism Promotion**

This edition highlights:

- More than \$16 million spent over many years in Macedonia, including on projects to make it a hot-spot for adventure tourists;
  - USAID staff went paragliding to commemorate the completion of a paragliding weather station.
  - Taxpayers supported (and even hired a conference organizer for) an adventure tourism conference at a Macedonian lakeside resort.
- \$450,000 to teach hospitality skills to youth in Turkmenistan, which included social media training;
- \$177,300 spent by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to make improvements to a national park in Russia—at the same time that USFS reports billions in maintenance backlogs at U.S. parks;
- More than \$5 million to promote tourism to Armenia, including:
  - Expansion of the Black Sea Silk Road tourism road
  - \$255,000 to develop a marketing “country brand” for Armenia
- Almost \$1 million spent in Bosnia and Herzegovina for hiking and biking trails—at the same time that America’s trails have a \$314 million maintenance backlog;
- Almost \$1 million devoted to a program that includes providing free online classes in tourism;
- \$98 million in tourism support to Jordan, including:
  - Improving customer service at tourist hot-spots
  - Parades and festivals
  - National Tourism Awareness Painting Competition
  - Distribution of 10,000 flyers to raise awareness of tourism’s economic impact
  - Improvements to hiking trails
- More than \$6.5 million to Kyrgyzstan, including improvements to an ancient religious monument;
- Nearly \$2 million in “agro-eco tourism” support to Belarus, including to bed and breakfasts;
  - One bed and breakfast, which was featured by USAID, led tourists in an ancient rite to a pagan harvest god.
- More than \$4.4 million in support to ancient sites in Egypt;
- \$6 million to support sustainable tourism in Albania.